

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00903 040458Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3326

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 903

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR HABIB FROM WILLEY

LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR HELMS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IZ, IRP

SUBJECT: NEW DELVELOPMENTS IN BARZANI VISIT

REF: STATE 162819

1. IRANIS DID NOT REACT TO PUBLICITY CONCERNING BARZANIS
PREVIOUS VISIT TO SISCO, AND I DOUBT THAT A VISIT TO DEPARTMENT
AT COUNTRY DIRECTOR LEVEL WOULD CREATE A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN
US-IRAQI RELATIONS. I SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT BARZANI BE
RECEIVED ONLY ON CONDITION THAT HE AGREE THAT VISIT NOT
BE PUBLISHED. IF POSSIBLE, KNOWLEDGE OF VISIT SHOULD BE LIMITED
TO USG AND GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

2. AS FOR BARZANI REMAINING IN UNITED STATES ON PERMANENT
BASIS, I BELIEVE THAT THIS COULD CREATE STRONG IRAQI
REACTION. IRAQI REGIME ALREADY SUSPECTS US-SYRIAN COLLABORA-
TION IN LEBANON. IRAQIS ARE AWARE THAT SYRIANS ARE SUPPORTING
KURDISH DISSIDENT ACTIVITY IN IRAQ AND IF BARZANI WERE ADMITTED
PERMANENTLY TO UNITED STATES THEY WOULD PROBABLY CONCLUDE

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THAT USG IS JOINING HANDS WITH SYRIA REGIME TO USE KURDS

AS WEAPON AGAINST IRAQ REGIME.

3. IF BARZANI WERE ADMITTED PERMANENTLY TO UNITED STATES,
IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, FOR USG TO CONTROL
BARZANIS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS. IRAQIS
DO NOT UNDERSTAND OUR SYSTEM AND THEY WOULD NEVER BELIEVE THAT
USG COULD NOT EXERCISE MORE CONTROL OVER BARZANIS ACTIVITIES
IF IT WISHED TO DO SO. I BELIEVE WE WOULD DO WELL TO AVOID
THESE PROBLEMS RE RETURNING RPT RETURNING BARZANI TO IRAN
AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. WILEY

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